United Nations A/64/743

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 April 2010
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 111 (h)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fourteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 5 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the candidacy for membership in the Human Rights Council for the period 2010-2013 submitted by the Government of Ecuador in May 2008 for the elections that will take place on 13 May 2010.

As you are aware, Ecuador completed the universal periodic review process in May 2008. For that exercise, the Government of Ecuador conducted broad national consultations involving all sectors of society, and since that time those commitments for the promotion of human rights have been implemented and updated.

It should be recalled that Ecuador has participated actively in international forums contributing to the development of human rights. In 2000, Ecuador became the first State of Latin America to sign all United Nations and Organization of American States treaties adopted on human rights.

This ongoing commitment to progress and strengthening of international human rights mechanisms has allowed Ecuador to participate actively as a State and through its national experts in various areas of monitoring and protection of human rights. For example, the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in 1994, was Ecuadorian.

In 2008, Ecuador adopted by referendum a new Constitution guaranteeing human rights that retains the virtues of prior Constitutions in that area but is even more ambitious in the monitoring and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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The Government of Ecuador, in keeping with its national and international policy for the protection of human rights, wishes to be elected a member of the Human Rights Council, and therefore, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, submits its statement of voluntary pledges and commitments for the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex I) as well as progress made in implementation of prior voluntary pledges (see annex II).

(*Signed*) Francisco **Carrión-Mena**
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

Annex I to the letter dated 5 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Voluntary pledges and commitments of Ecuador for its candidacy to the Human Rights Council — May 2010

A. International human rights law

1. To collaborate on an ongoing basis with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional and national offices in the investigation, dissemination and response to reports of alleged human rights violations in the country submitted to special mechanisms and procedures.

2. To present, sponsor and support, as appropriate, draft resolutions condemning practices that systematically violate human rights in any country of the world.

3. To maintain an open invitation to and ongoing cooperation with human rights special procedures and mechanisms of both the United Nations and the inter-American system, for on-site verification of the situation of human rights in the country.

4. To support the adoption of new international instruments for the protection of human rights.

B. Domestic implementation, dissemination and promotion of human rights

5. To strengthen a system of effective response and follow-up to international commitments made by Ecuador under the human rights treaty bodies and conventions, as well as inter-institutional coordination on specific human rights issues. Within this system, the Public Coordination Commission for Human Rights will be assigned a major role.

6. To conduct the evaluation of the National Human Rights Plan and its operational plans with a view to reformulating and repositioning them at the national level in accordance with new international standards for the protection of human rights at the global and regional levels.

7. To promote the work of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law.

8. To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

C. Harmonization of domestic law with international human rights standards and updating of legal norms

9. To draft a reform of the Penal Code that criminalizes serious human rights violations, in accordance with international standards, with special attention to torture, and including family and gender violence and sexual diversity.

10. To adopt an anti-discrimination act.

11. To promote the adoption of the Crimes against Humanity Act and general reforms to domestic law for the purpose of incorporating the norms contained in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

D. Compliance with international human rights obligations

12. To design and implement a system to follow up on compliance with of international human rights obligations.

E. Prison rehabilitation

13. To design a social integration model and an infrastructure model for prisons from a human rights perspective.

14. To build seven new prisons based on a social integration model.

F. Human rights training and capacity-building for public officials

15. To create ongoing training programmes in the area of human rights for public officials and officials providing judicial services. To design the training, implementation and evaluation programme for the period 2008-2011.

G. Preventing and combating crimes of trafficking in persons

16. To implement effectively the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

H. Collective rights of Afro-Ecuadorians and indigenous peoples

17. To disseminate, through a forum with broad participation among government bodies and civil society, the outcome of the 73rd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held in Geneva from 28 July to 15 August 2008.

18. To adopt the recommendation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, to guarantee free and equal access by indigenous peoples to services for the administration of justice.

I. Rights of children, adolescents, youth and the elderly

19. To draw up an agreed agenda for the protection of rights and promotion of policies to guarantee the human rights of children, adolescents, youth and the elderly.

20. To establish an inter-institutional network with social programmes for the eradication of child labour that will expand its impact by guaranteeing the rights of

the children and adolescents and their families who find themselves in those circumstances.

21. To disseminate the normative framework that covers youth as having rights and to work to promote their rights through a consensus agenda with a cross-cutting approach to social protection and the rights of youth in various State programmes, in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination against youth and equal opportunity.

22. To disseminate the rights of the elderly based on the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Act on Older Adults.

J. Women's rights

23. To promote effective democracy with equal opportunities for women and men in political participation and representation both through direct elections and designated posts in State agencies, through legal reform and establishment of systems that guarantee action for the exercise of political rights by women.

24. To guarantee the right to a life free of violence through the adoption of measures to prevent, eradicate, criminalize and punish family and gender-based violence by taking an institutional and cross-cutting approach to plans and programmes within State structures, and to promulgate laws on the elimination of violence against women, children and adolescents, including the displaced population located on the country's northern border, from an intercultural perspective.

25. To develop laws and public policies to prevent and eradicate sexual abuse, assault and exploitation of women, girls and adolescents, whether commercial or under conditions of servitude, including issues relating to sexual and reproductive life.

26. To promote a gender perspective in cultural and intercultural rights, education and quality of life through the establishment of social policies on formal and non-formal education, eradication of illiteracy and training in technical areas and technology, that will bring about change in customs and habits, thereby promoting equality between men and women.

27. To link Government plans with public policies that promote economic, social and environmental rights and that aim to eliminate the employment inequalities between men and women and to promote appropriate management of environmental resources; and to offer financial and non-financial resources that provide decent living conditions for women and promote their autonomy, paying greater attention to rural women.

28. To establish a training plan for officials of the judiciary, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the police and other actors in the criminal justice system to raise awareness and provide appropriate training on the approach to family violence and sexual offences committed against women, girls and adolescents and sexually diverse groups in order to give those groups true access to the criminal justice system.

K. Rights of persons with diverse sexual orientations

29. To implement a national system guaranteeing action for equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, through the strengthening of institutions for the protection of human rights of women and persons with diverse sexual orientations, as well as the promulgation of norms to combat discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender.

L. Rights of migrants

30. To follow up on programmes and projects under the National Human Development Plan for Migration.

31. To establish mechanisms intended to avoid criminalization of migration, such as training workshops for officers posted at the country's entry and exit points.

32. To promote and disseminate the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families through printed matter directed to students in areas with high migration rates; a page in the Web portal www.migranteecuatoriano.gov.ec will also be designed.

M. Rights of persons with disabilities

33. To implement fully the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through its dissemination and the execution of broad and effective public policies for the promotion of the rights of this priority group.

34. To promote access by persons with disabilities to education, employment, health care, communication and physical space in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to achieve equal opportunities and access to goods and services with a gender perspective.

35. To promote, from the central Government in coordination with local authorities, the adoption of activities and programmes to ensure that persons with disabilities can live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, ensuring their access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communication, without obstacles of any type and making possible a country without barriers in both the public and private spheres.

36. To introduce flexibility in the regulations of public and private bodies for the purpose of ensuring access of persons with disabilities to training and capacity-building programmes in the various professions and specializations, enabling them to find employment; to that effect, compliance with the Regulations on Hiring of Persons with Disabilities in public competitive and merit examinations will be monitored.

37. To promote, disseminate and raise awareness in society of the rights of persons with visual disabilities through the mass utilization of the Braille system to guarantee their right to information.

38. To work for the eradication of illiteracy among persons with visual disabilities in marginalized urban areas through the establishment of specialized literacy centres, with international technical and financial support.

39. To support the strengthening of associations of persons with visual disabilities.

N. Promotion of human rights within the National Police

40. To modify the method of compiling the criminal record of citizens (police record) to follow the principles of presumption of innocence and the right to honour and good reputation.

41. To establish a Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Unit within the National Police in order to develop a plan of action for policing addressing the process of receiving complaints and enforcement of judicial and extrajudicial actions for the appropriate follow-up.

42. To reform the procedural and reporting manual of the National Police Directorate for Children and Adolescents, in order to harmonize it with international conventions and domestic laws for the protection of children and adolescents.

43. To establish a functional system for registration of complaints of human rights violations that will allow information to be compiled effectively, making appropriate use of international standards or classifications of types of violations, with the aim of preventing or punishing human rights violations committed by members of the National Police.

O. Promotion of human rights within the armed forces

44. To conduct activities to disseminate and raise awareness on human rights and international humanitarian law.

45. To conduct workshops on prevention and eradication of ill-treatment and torture for members of the armed forces.

46. To conduct activities including training, mediation and arbitration for the prevention and elimination of family violence.

47. To advance activities to promote women's rights and gender equality, with emphasis on stable employment, as well as the prevention and elimination of sexual harassment in the workplace.

48. To establish a section within the Ministry of Defence for the prevention and control of corruption within the armed forces.

Annex II to the letter dated 5 April 2010 to the President of the General Assembly by the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

Progress made by Ecuador in fulfilling its voluntary pledges and commitments to the Human Rights Council in the context of the universal periodic review — May 2010

A. International human rights law

To collaborate on an ongoing basis with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional and national offices in the investigation, dissemination and response to reports of alleged human rights violations in the country submitted to special mechanisms and procedures.

1. Ecuador has always maintained an open-door policy of cooperation with the United Nations human rights system. This has included joint efforts and collaboration in the observance of human rights. Ecuador has two bodies which deal with the topic at hand.

2. On the one hand, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights numbers among its duties the responsibility for "overseeing the enforcement of sentences, precautionary measures, interim measures, amicable settlements recommendations and resolutions originating from within the inter-American human rights system and the universal human rights system as well as compliance with all other obligations arising as a result of human rights undertakings".

3. The Under-secretariat for Human Rights and Coordination of Public Defence of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights provides follow-up and enforcement of international obligations of the State resulting from human rights violations.

4. On the other hand, the State Public Prosecutor's Office is the body responsible for representing the State in disputes arising from alleged human rights violations where State responsibility is found. The Office of Human Rights of the Public Prosecutor's Office provides legal representation for the State in such cases.

To present, sponsor and support, as appropriate, draft resolutions condemning practices that systematically violate human rights in any country of the world.

5. Ecuador, aware of the importance of human rights in achieving United Nations objectives and the democratic development of countries, has been prepared to recognize and condemn practices violating human rights in the world. This has been a consistent practice during the term of the present Government.

To maintain an open invitation to and ongoing cooperation with human rights special procedures and mechanisms of both the United Nations and the inter-American system for on-site verification of the situation of human rights in the country.

6. Ecuador maintains a standing invitation to the special mechanisms and procedures of the universal and regional human rights systems to conduct country visits under their mandates.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights are authorized to coordinate the agendas for visits to Ecuador of representatives of the human rights special procedures.

To support the adoption of new international instruments for the protection of human rights.

8. Ecuador is party to the major universal and regional human rights instruments. This is an achievement at the national level. Ecuador is prepared to ratify any human rights conventions and treaties adopted in the future.

9. The process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning the mechanism for the submission of individual and inter-State complaints has thus begun. In accordance with article 419 (4) of our Constitution, dealing with human rights treaties, the approval of the National Assembly is necessary for ratification. The Committee on Sovereignty, Integration, International Relations and Integral Security of the National Assembly is currently considering the text of the Optional Protocol.

B. Domestic implementation, dissemination and promotion of human rights

To strengthen a system of effective response and follow-up to international commitments made by Ecuador under the human rights treaty bodies and conventions, as well as inter-institutional coordination on specific human rights issues. Within this system, the Public Coordination Commission for Human Rights will be assigned a major role.

10. By Executive Decree No. 1317, both the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for coordinating the system for effective response and follow-up to the State's international commitments. In addition, through a project for follow-up to the voluntary commitments and recommendations made under the universal periodic review, with the technical and economic support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights a follow-up system will be created both for those commitments and recommendations and the observations and recommendations to our country made by United Nations committees.

To conduct the evaluation of the National Human Rights Plan and its operational plans with a view to reformulating and repositioning them at the national level in accordance with new international standards for the protection of human rights at the global and regional levels.

11. During 2008, the Government of Ecuador conducted an evaluation of the National Human Rights Plan, which took into account the importance of the participatory process in the design of this Plan, but also the need to create a tool that could be adopted by the State as a whole as the reference point for planning in human rights.

12. The Constitution of 2008, adopted by a referendum, introduced the concept of *sumak kawsay* or well-being. This idea changes the paradigm of the State, guiding State structures towards the achievement of well-being for all the people of Ecuador.

With that goal in mind, the National Plan for Well-being, formerly the National Development Plan, was created. This new Plan seeks to achieve economic development but goes much farther. Human rights are its focus. Without the full enjoyment of human rights, *sumak kawsay* will not be achieved.

13. In the new Constitution, *sumak kawsay* involves improving the people's quality of life, developing their capacity and potential, establishing an economic system that promotes equality through redistribution throughout society and the country of the benefits of development, promoting effective participation of citizens in all areas of public interest, establishing harmonious coexistence with nature, guaranteeing national sovereignty, promoting Latin American integration and protecting and promoting cultural diversity (article 276).

14. In the elaboration of the National Plan for Well-being, the Ecuadorian Government has taken into account international human rights standards. Thus, objective 9 of the Plan is to guarantee the exercise of human rights and justice.

To promote the work of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law.

15. The National Commission on International Humanitarian Law was established by Executive Decree No. 1741, published in Official Register No. 344 of 29 August 2006, as a permanent body made up of various State institutions.

16. Through the execution of a National Plan of Action, the Commission will oversee and contribute to the effective implementation of the obligations of the Ecuadorian Government in the area of international humanitarian law.

17. Among its activities, the Commission has conducted a series of meetings intended to ensure better implementation of humanitarian law in Ecuador.

18. One of the Commission's most important projects is the draft law reforming the Criminal Code provisions on anti-personnel mines. Major stakeholders have come together for these meetings: the Ministry of National Defence, which presides in the Commission; the Red Cross of Ecuador, which is responsible for providing its secretariat; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration, which holds the presidency of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law.

19. Ecuador is also preparing a proposal to criminalize conduct prohibited by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

20. Ecuador has reached the final step in the domestic ratification process for the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed 24 May 2007.

21. Ecuador ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 20 October 2009.

C. Harmonization of domestic law with international human rights standards and updating of legal norms

To draft a reform of the Penal Code that criminalizes serious human rights violations, in accordance with international standards, with special attention to torture, and including family and gender violence and sexual diversity.

22. The Ecuadorian Government, through the Under-secretariat for Legislation of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, has completed the preliminary draft of the Organization Code of Criminal Guarantees, which punishes persons committing torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under the heading of crimes against humanity or war crimes.

23. Moreover, in Ecuador the crime of torture is also a separate offence. Thus, anyone inflicting treatment that is equivalent to torture will receive an eight-year prison sentence. According to the gravity of the situation, the preliminary draft also imposes punishment on any public official who could have been able to prevent the commission of torture but did not do so, or did not bring the matter to the attention of the competent authorities.

To adopt an anti-discrimination act.

24. The Under-secretariat for Legislation is drafting the **Equality and Non-discrimination Act**. This new body of law will be comprehensive and will cover all the possible grounds for discrimination found in article 11 (2) of the Political Constitution of Ecuador.

To promote the adoption of the Crimes against Humanity Act and general reforms to domestic law for the purpose of incorporating norms contained in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

25. In fulfilment of this commitment, the Under-secretariat for Legislation of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights completed the preliminary draft of the Organization Code of Criminal Guarantees in which article 80 of the Constitution is developed.

26. Title III, chapter I, section I, of the preliminary draft makes reference to "Crimes against Humanity" and includes aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. In the case of crimes against humanity, this document is based on articles 5 and 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

D. Compliance with international human rights obligations

To design and implement a system to follow up on compliance with international human rights obligations.

27. Through the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Ecuador follows up on compliance with its international human rights obligations.

28. To meet its commitments, Ecuador has introduced a system of justice and human rights indicators, whose first phase will end in October 2010, with full implementation to be completed in 2011. The purpose of this system is to monitor

the observance of human rights in Ecuador. In the first phase observance of six human rights will be monitored: right to life, encompassing the constitutional concept of *sumak kawsay* or well-being; right to physical integrity; right to participate in public life; right to liberty and security; right to a healthy environment; and the right of access to justice.

29. This system will become a highly useful tool for decision-making in the design of the country's public policies.

E. Prison rehabilitation

To design a social integration model and an infrastructure model for prisons from a human rights perspective.

30. In order to meet this voluntary commitment, Ecuador has taken the relevant measures to improve conditions for prisoners in detention centres. Through the actions of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, it has designed the Comprehensive Model of Services for Persons Deprived of their Liberty.

31. As part of the implementation of this model the following steps have been taken.

32. Education: The Ministry of Education has signed agreements aimed at reinforcing political will and programmes to guarantee this right to persons deprived of their liberty, which include arrangements enabling those who do not have documentation certifying the level or cycle they should be placed in to take a placement test and enter the appropriate year.

33. Regular and completely normal educational programmes are conducted in the 33 social rehabilitation centres, with 2,309 detainees as students: 676 students enrolled in the literacy programme; 882 students at the primary level, 695 at the secondary level and 56 in higher education.

34. Culture: There are cultural projects: Cinema — "*Cine con Sentido*" (Movies with Meaning) in the social rehabilitation centres for the detention of women, men and adolescents in the country's major cities. The project "*Murales de Libertad*" (Murals of Freedom) is also being carried out in Ecuador's prisons.

35. In addition, a book fair, a musical project and various radio broadcasting projects are taking place in social rehabilitation centres.

36. Professionalization of prisons: Within detention centres, programmes are being developed for continuing education of prison guards, administrative officials and representatives of detainees in the country's various social rehabilitation centres. Furthermore, there is a special agreement between the Army Polytechnic School and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for training for careers in the prison system.

37. Employment and productivity: In order to promote employment, 500 students in detention centres are currently taking training courses given by the Vocational Training System of Ecuador.

38. Health care: Ecuador is designing a Comprehensive Health Care Policy for the prison system.

39. This commitment is met through the implementation of the Comprehensive Health Care Policy, which includes HIV testing campaigns in social rehabilitation centres in the major cities. Vaccination campaigns for diphtheria, tetanus and hepatitis B have also been conducted in all the nation's social rehabilitation centres.

40. To protect these rights, a Pilot Plan for the Comprehensive Health Care Advocates Training School is also being conducted in social rehabilitation centres in Quito, with 40 participants, including prison guards and family members of detainees. Workshops are also being held for medical directors and chiefs of social rehabilitation centres at the national level, in order to disseminate health-care procedures throughout the prison system. The first workshop had 61 participants.

41. As a complement to this comprehensive health-care plan, Ecuador has a Mental Health Care Model for the Prison System.

42. Family relations: The detention centres offer legal, educational and motivational workshops and form committees of family members of prisoners, offering various types of training, mainly on legal matters, leadership and production for families of detainees. Around 500 families have benefited from these activities.

43. The Government of Ecuador is also restructuring the social rehabilitation system through a redesign of the Strategic Plan and the establishment of macroprocesses.

44. The prison rehabilitation policy is also of interest, in particular the centres for adolescent offenders. Agreements for administration and monitoring of compliance in those centres have been signed. Another agreement has to do with nutrition and the use of workshops for adolescent offenders in some cities.

45. The new care model designed for those centres includes the hiring of a consultant for the development of the model, an investment project for centres for adolescent offenders, and architectural design which meets the specifications set out in national norms and instruments from a concept based on the guarantee of rights and social inclusion of adolescents; launch of training for officials of all centres for adolescent offenders; raising awareness of the conditions in centres for adolescent offenders and their young inmates; evaluation of the performance of officials contracted to work in centres for adolescent offenders. It also involves legal assistance for young inmates; coordinated efforts between courts and prosecutors as well as the Special Police Unit for Children and Adolescents (DINAPEN) to guarantee respect for due process and the rights of adolescents entering centres for young offenders.

46. It is important to note that in Ecuador a process is currently under way to transfer the oversight, management and administration of the centres for adolescent offenders to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

47. In order to reinforce these actions to protect the inmates of centres for adolescent offenders, inter-institutional coordination at the local and national levels is taking place, mainly among the State Public Prosecutor's Office, the Special Police Unit for Children and Adolescents, the National Council for Children and Adolescents and local councils for children and adolescents, cantonal child protection agencies and municipalities.

48. Ecuador, in objective 9 of the National Plan for Well-being 2009-2013, under Policy 9.5, "Promote a system of social rehabilitation enabling the exercise of the rights and responsibilities of persons deprived of liberty", has clearly identified the approach to follow to implement this policy of protection for persons deprived of liberty.

49. As a result of all these efforts, by 2013, Ecuador plans to reduce by 60 per cent the overcrowding in social rehabilitation centres. At present the indicators are being established that will make it possible to follow up on compliance with this target and the implementation of the approach established to carry out this policy.

To build seven new prisons based on a social integration model.

50. The Ecuadorian Government is building seven new prisons, in addition to a series of maintenance projects in detention centres, including:

- Santo Domingo Province social rehabilitation centre: medium and maximum security wings are being finished.
- Sucumbios Province social rehabilitation centre: construction work on living quarters is complete, other buildings are under construction, the enclosure is complete.
- Guayas Province social rehabilitation centre: construction of the base is completed, as is the construction of the channel around the perimeter.
- El Oro Province social rehabilitation centre: the financing package is being finalized with the Ministry of Defence. The terms of reference for the studies are being determined.
- Pichincha Province social rehabilitation centre: some possible sites in Machachi and Latacunga are being evaluated.
- Azuay Province social rehabilitation centre: archaeological surveys are being conducted, as well as dissemination.
- Imbabura Province social rehabilitation centre: the reversion of the municipal ordinance on the site is being coordinated with the National Cultural Heritage Institute.
- Napo social rehabilitation centre: the terms of reference for the studies are being determined.
- Morona Province social rehabilitation centre: the terms of reference for the studies are being determined.
- Manabi Province social rehabilitation centre: existing physical information on this centre is being compiled.
- Esmeraldas Province social rehabilitation centre: existing physical information on this centre is being compiled.
- Tungurahua Province social rehabilitation centre: existing physical information on this centre is being compiled.
- Loja Province social rehabilitation centre: existing physical information on this centre is being compiled.

- Quito Provisional Detention Centre: the conceptual model for the Provisional Detention Centre is being defined and information compiled on the current status of such centres at the national level.
- Nueva Loja Centre for Youth Offenders: full architectural and engineering studies have been completed and the land has been cleared; preparations for the construction are being made.

51. Various projects in compliance with this voluntary commitment are also taking place which will be beneficial for human rights and improve living conditions for inmates of social rehabilitation centres.

- Design and presentation of the project "Professionalization of the Prison System in Ecuador" in coordination with the National Secretariat for Development Planning.
- An agricultural production project in the Varones social rehabilitation centre of Guayaquil; feasibility study and contract for implementation in 2010.

F. Human rights training and capacity-building for public officials

To create ongoing training programmes in the area of human rights for public officials and officials providing judicial services. To design a training, implementation and evaluation programme for the period 2008-2011.

52. In compliance with this recommendation, Ecuador has continued human rights training and capacity-building for public officials and police officers.

53. In 2008, a series of national capacity-building initiatives were undertaken in the areas of:

- human rights and human mobility.
- human rights and non-discrimination.
- human rights and the fight against human trafficking.
- public safety from a human rights perspective.
- rights of persons of diverse sexual orientations.

54. As a result of these initiatives, 2,417 members of the National Police were trained in 15 of Ecuador's 24 provinces.

55. In 2009, 80 trainers were given instruction in human rights and human mobility; these trainers in turn trained 3,000 members of the National Police deployed along Ecuador's northern border.

56. In 2010, Ecuador began a programme to train 150 police trainers, who in turn will provide training to 42,000 members of the National Police on the contents of the new human rights manual for police officers.

57. The Government of Ecuador also plans to provide training this year in human rights, mobility, human trafficking and shelter to 1,200 police officers stationed in the north-western province of Esmeraldas. Similar training will be given to some 1,000 senior and junior officials in charge of the provincial commands in the provinces along the northern border of Ecuador (Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura and

Sucumbíos), where the Government is carrying out initiatives to protect the rights of Colombian refugees.

58. It should be noted that as part of this human rights capacity-building policy, police officers are required to receive training in order to be considered for promotion.

59. In fulfilment of this commitment, in 2010, Ecuador designed a human rights and human mobility capacity-building model for members of the armed forces, with a view to training 100 military staff, who will in turn train 4,000 members of the armed forces deployed along the country's northern border.

G. Preventing and combating crimes of trafficking in persons

To implement effectively the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

60. In 2004, the Government of Ecuador announced a national policy to combat "kidnapping, illegal trafficking in migrants, sexual and labour exploitation and other forms of exploitation and prostitution of women, children and adolescents, child pornography and corruption of minors".

61. On the basis of this national policy, Ecuador adopted the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, Illegal Trafficking in Migrants, and Sexual and Labour Exploitation in 2006. The Plan is based on the principles of State responsibility, equality before the law, non-discrimination, the best interests of children and adolescents, democratic participation, and the overriding priority of childhood and adolescence in the development of policies and programmes.

62. The National Plan focuses on three key areas: prevention; investigation and punishment; and the protection and restitution of victims' rights including means of redress.

63. Ecuador has made progress in the following areas:

(a) Capacity-building for members of the National Police in the area of human rights and human trafficking; labour inspectors in the identification and referral of trafficking cases to the judicial authorities; diplomatic and consular staff in the use of the consular protocol for assisting Ecuadorian victims of trafficking abroad; public officials in the area of child and adolescent victims of trafficking.

(b) Data compilation: design, approval and development of a system for recording data on human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

(c) Institutional advances:

- Development of a website for the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.
- Consular protocol for assisting victims of trafficking.
- 2008 assessment of problems and evaluation of institutional requirements, protocol for the comprehensive assistance of child and adolescent victims of trafficking, capacity-building modules for facilitators, compendium of legislation and policies/methodology of specialized services for victims.

- Strategy to Prevent and Eradicate the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents associated with Tourism in Ecuador.
- Establishment of a specialized police unit to conduct investigations, rescue victims, and identify perpetrators and networks.

64. In March 2010, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights took over management of the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. Ecuador is currently updating the Plan with the institutions involved in order to identify the priorities and strategies for combating human trafficking.

H. Collective rights of Afro-Ecuadorians and indigenous peoples

To disseminate, through a forum with broad participation among government bodies and civil society, the outcome of the 73rd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held in Geneva from 28 July to 15 August 2008.

65. From 26 to 27 February 2010, a national workshop was held on the establishment of a follow-up mechanism for the United Nations recommendations on the rights of Afro-Ecuadorians. The recommendations of various United Nations bodies on strengthening the rights of persons of African descent, including measures for eliminating racial discrimination, were widely disseminated during the workshop.

66. In April 2010, a similar dissemination initiative will be held for a large number of public institutions.

To adopt the recommendation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, to guarantee free and equal access by indigenous people to services for the administration of justice.

67. In his report on Ecuador, the Special Rapporteur concluded that the lack of regulation in the area of indigenous justice leads to instances of conflict between indigenous justice and ordinary justice.

68. It is important to highlight article 171 of the Constitution of Ecuador, which outlines the scope of implementation of indigenous justice in Ecuador.

69. In fulfilment of the Government's commitment in this respect, the Undersecretariat for Legislation of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is working on two draft laws aimed at eliminating discrimination in the administration of justice. The first is the draft Act on Coordination and Cooperation between Ordinary Justice and Indigenous Justice; and the second is a preliminary draft of the Organization Code of Criminal Guarantees, which provides for the adoption of differentiated measures for indigenous peoples and communities with respect to criminal law.

70. Ecuador also established the Organization Act on Judicial Guarantees and Constitutional Oversight and the Organization Code of the Judiciary, which further develop the precepts of indigenous justice provided for in the Constitution.

I. Rights of children, adolescents, youth and the elderly

To draw up an agreed agenda for the protection of rights and promotion of policies to guarantee the human rights of children, adolescents, youth and the elderly.

71. With regard to the rights of children and adolescents, Ecuador has implemented a social agenda for children and adolescents entitled "Standing Together for Equity Right from the Start". This instrument of public policy will guide the actions of organizations belonging to the Decentralized National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Young People for the period 2007-2010.

72. The Decentralized National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Young People is an interlinked, coordinated group of public and private organizations, agencies and services that design, implement, monitor and assess policies, plans, programmes and actions to guarantee the full protection of children and adolescents. It also establishes measures, procedures, sanctions and resources, in all areas, to ensure the enjoyment, exercise, enforceability and restitution of children's and adolescents' rights as set forth in the Code, the Constitution and international legal instruments.

73. The policies implemented as part of the social agenda are designed to guarantee each of the rights enshrined in the Code of Childhood and Adolescence.

74. Ecuador has also launched a 10-year National Plan of Action for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents. One of its objectives is to establish the conditions necessary to ensure children's and adolescents' protection and adequate access to a healthy life, culture, proper emotional treatment and, family bonds, as well as the right to live a life free of violence and the right to decide and to be heard.

75. The Plan of Action includes policies for each age group: 0 to 6; 6 to 12; and 12 to 18 years. These policies focus on guaranteeing the right to health, food, education, housing, family, culture, a life free of violence, recreation, special protection and participation in public life.

To establish an inter-institutional network with social programmes for the eradication of child labour that will expand its impact by guaranteeing the rights of the children and adolescents and their families who find themselves in those circumstances.

76. In order to fulfil this voluntary commitment, Ecuador continues to strengthen its actions, plans and policies for the eradication of child labour. In this connection, it should be noted that in 2002, Ecuador established the Child Labour Inspection and Monitoring System, which reports directly to the National Committee for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labour (CONEPTI) and is attached to the Ministry of Labour. The system is primarily designed to monitor compliance with the law, oversee the management of child labour data and respond to cases and complaints.

77. The implementation of this national policy for the eradication of child labour has been strengthened by the current Constitution of Ecuador, adopted in September 2008, which considers children and adolescents a priority group. Specifically, article 47, paragraph 2, protects children and adolescents from all forms of labour

exploitation and provides for measures to eradicate child labour. Likewise, it states that adolescents may work only in exceptional circumstances and that work should not infringe the right to education.

78. Secondary legislation, including the Code of Childhood and Adolescence and the Labour Code, observes the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

79. It is within this framework that the National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Progressive Eradication of Child Labour in Ecuador (PETI) was adopted. The Plan of Action provides not only for the identification of the direct and indirect causes of child labour in Ecuador, but also establishes a conceptual framework that defines the main terms and concepts involved.

80. The principal programmes and measures to be adopted under PETI will focus on seven areas: legal matters, family and community, employment, health, education, institutions, information and awareness-raising.

81. Since 2005, Ecuador has implemented a 10-year Plan of Action for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents. The Plan of Action was a joint and participatory effort involving many stakeholders, both from the Government and civil society, who developed 29 policies for the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents, to be carried out by 2014. Of these policies, two address the issue of child labour: Policy No. 18, which is designed to progressively eradicate harmful, dangerous and risky child labour (for children between 5 and 12 years old) and Policy No. 27, which aims at eradicating prohibited and dangerous work and providing protection against work and labour exploitation (for children between 13 and 18 years old).

82. To fulfil its international obligations, the Government of Ecuador committed to developing a National Plan of Action for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labour, which will be carried out by CONEPTI. Within CONEPTI, the National Council for Children and Adolescents acts as the lead agency responsible for developing, overseeing and monitoring compliance with public policies for comprehensive protection with a view to guaranteeing children and adolescents in Ecuador the full enjoyment of their rights.

83. It should be noted that 2,224 children and adolescents were permanently removed from the workforce in 2008, following 3,089 comprehensive labour inspections conducted under the System. As a result of these initiatives, Ecuador is progressively eradicating child labour.

84. Ecuador continues to make significant efforts to compile current statistics on the number of children and adolescents actually involved in child labour, especially prohibited or dangerous activities, which will allow the Government effectively to address the situation. National efforts have also contributed to the development of comprehensive support strategies to improve the living conditions of families affected by child labour and generally to raise awareness about the harmful effects of child labour on the comprehensive development of human beings.

To disseminate the normative framework that views youth as holders of rights and to work to promote their rights through the design of a consensus agenda with a cross-cutting approach to social protection and the rights of youth in various State programmes, in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination against youth and equal opportunity.

85. In fulfilment of this voluntary commitment, on 28 and 29 January 2010, Ecuador launched the National Youth Agenda (2010-2013), which was developed through a participatory process organized by the National Youth Bureau, under the Under-secretariat for Family Protection of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. The Agenda has three objectives: to apply article 39 of the Constitution; to mainstream the public policy on youth in the public policies of the central government and decentralized autonomous governments; and to promote a culture of enforceability and accountability.

86. The Agenda focuses on the key areas of education, health, employment, justice and the culture of peace, participation mechanisms and institutions.

To disseminate the rights of the elderly based on the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Act on Older Adults.

87. The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion is responsible for the gerontology management programme. The programmes under way include the authorization and formal establishment of health care centres for older adults with limited resources.

88. As part of the programme "Feed Yourself Ecuador", the "Seniors" programme seeks to improve the quality of life of its elderly beneficiaries by maintaining or improving their nutritional status.

89. To further these objectives, the Ministry of Health has launched the Programme for the Comprehensive Care of Adults and the Elderly. This Programme's objectives are: to strengthen the institutional response to the needs of the elderly; to provide care in the event of illness or injury; and to train a team of health professionals responsible for providing care to this group.

J. Women's rights

90. The rights of women are enshrined in several articles of the Constitution. The first of these refers to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex. Article 70 provides that the State must seek to establish gender equity between men and women through public policy.

91. The constitutional framework for such policy is contained in articles 156, 157 and 70 of the Constitution, in addition to the sixth transitional provision of the Constitution, which provides for the establishment of national councils for equality, including the Council for Women and Gender Equality, with a structure and functions in accordance with constitutional norms.

92. In order for these new institutions to be created, Executive Decree No. 1733 was issued on 25 May 2009, creating the Transition Committee and mandating it to establish the new institutions designed to ensure equality between women and men.

93. Ecuador is currently carrying out a number of actions and policies for the promotion and protection of women's rights, among which the following should be highlighted: the National Plan to Eradicate Gender Violence against Children, Adolescents and Women; the Plan to Combat Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation; the National Plan to Eradicate Sexual Crimes in Schools; and various other plans and public policies designed to protect women's rights.

To promote effective democracy with equal opportunities for women and men in political participation and representation both through direct elections and designated posts in State agencies, through legal reform and establishment of systems that guarantee action for the exercise of political rights by women.

94. Participation of women in politics has improved considerably. The Elections Organization Act establishes parity of men and women on lists with more than two candidates. Parity must be enforced at all levels of designated posts, representation and decision-making.

95. As a result of this law's application in the most recent elections, the participation of women in the National Legislative Assembly and in town councils has increased. Currently, 32.6 per cent of the members of the National Legislative Assembly are women. There are 13 female Ministers in the presidential cabinet — a record number.

To guarantee the right to a life free of violence through the adoption of measures to prevent, eradicate, criminalize and punish family and gender-based violence by taking an institutional and cross-cutting approach to plans and programmes within State structures, and to promulgate laws giving impetus to the elimination of violence against women, children and adolescents, including the displaced population located on the country's northern border, from an intercultural perspective.

96. In order to fulfil Ecuador's obligation to guarantee a life free of violence and to eradicate such extreme rights violations affecting the lives of women, children and adolescents, the President of the Republic signed Decree No. 620 on 10 September 2007, which provides for the establishment of the National Plan for the Eradication of Gender-Based Violence against Children, Adolescents and Women. The Plan of Action, which is independent and involves all Government institutions active in social and justice-related issues, serves as an umbrella plan for other national plans that works towards similar goals.

97. The Plan of Action has a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach; the Plan was the result of a national assessment of the State's progress in this area. The five strategic priorities of the Plan are:

- Transformation of socio-cultural patterns — awareness-raising initiatives for Ecuadoarian society on the rights and equality of women and the right to a life free of violence.
- Establishment and strengthening of a comprehensive protection system — aimed at guaranteeing the protection and restitution of the rights of victims of gender-based violence and strengthening of these actions.
- Development and implementation of a single data registration system or register of cases of violence, which would supersede the sub-register and

address the lack of awareness of the issue of violence (physical, sexual, psychological, trafficking, exploitation) in Ecuador. The system will help the Government to take decisions, and develop and implement general and sectoral policies that are timely and appropriately designed.

- Access to justice — with a view to reducing impunity and guaranteeing victims of gender-based violence access to free, rapid and expedient justice.
- Institutions — active and adequate for the exercise of rights within the framework of the new Constitution of Ecuador.

98. Much progress has been made in protecting the rights of women, girls and adolescents between 2007 and 2010, including the renovation and equipping of women and family commissariats; consolidated public health-care centres; cantonal boards for comprehensive rights protection; and hospital reception centres offering specialized care.

99. In addition, the Government of Ecuador signed Ministerial Agreement No. 062, establishing the National Plan of Action for the Eradication of Sexual Crimes in the Educational System, and has launched the National Programme for Education on Sexuality and Love, and awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives in national hospitals, the National and Judicial Police, the judiciary, investigators and women's commissariats with a view to improving the treatment and care of victims of violence.

To develop laws and public policies to prevent and eradicate sexual abuse, assault and exploitation of women, girls and adolescents, whether commercial or under conditions of servitude, including issues relating to sexual and reproductive life.

100. In order to fulfil its commitment to protect the rights of women, Ecuador drafted the National Plan for the Eradication of Gender-Based Violence against Women, Children and Adolescents (2007), a policy essential to the enjoyment of the right to a life free of violence, which contains the commitment of the Government of Ecuador to work to eliminate violence. It includes mechanisms for inter-agency coordination with all levels of the State. Its strategic emphases are the transformation of sociocultural patterns, a system of comprehensive protection, access to justice and a reporting system. Budgetary resources are allocated for that purpose in the Ministries of Health, Education, Government and Economic and Social Inclusion. In 2009, it was complemented by the Regulation on Protection and Comprehensive Services to Victims of Gender, Domestic and Sexual Violence throughout the Life Cycles, and the proposal known as Emergency Shelters for Victims of Sexual Crimes.

101. In addition, the commitment of the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation and the National Police to the implementation of the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation has been strengthened through the National Plan for the Elimination of Trafficking in and Sexual Exploitation of Children, Adolescents and Women (2006). The Office of the Attorney General established special domestic violence and sexual crimes units (trafficking, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and pornography) in Guayas, Galápagos, Pichincha, El Oro and Manabí, to end impunity for such crimes. It has improved infrastructure in shelters for victims of those crimes and supported increases in personnel and technical equipment for the National Police, which has

created an Anti-Trafficking Unit. As a result, 194 victims of trafficking in persons (commercial sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, begging and child pornography) have been freed and 47 traffickers have been arrested. Efforts are made to make reparations and restore victims' rights.

102. Finally, it is worth highlighting the National Policy on Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights, which promotes the implementation of and compliance with the rights contained in international instruments and laws, sexual and reproductive health being understood to be related to sexual and reproductive rights and other human rights. Its Action Plan (2005) has provided a framework for the drafting of inter-sectoral Action Plans for Rapid Reduction in Maternal Mortality (2008), Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy (2007) and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence. A regulation is also in effect that authorizes the distribution of free emergency contraceptive pills through public health units. The Ministry of Public Health included violence in clinical history reporting and, in 2008, it established regulations governing comprehensive services for the victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence against girls, adolescents and women.

To promote a gender perspective in cultural and intercultural rights, education and quality of life through the establishment of social policies on formal and non-formal education, eradication of illiteracy and training in technical areas and technology, that will bring about change in customs and habits, thereby promoting equality between men and women.

103. This commitment is based on articles 70, 156 and 157 and the sixth transitional provision of the Constitution which stipulate that the Government of Ecuador must formulate and implement policies for gender equality and include a gender perspective in policies, plans, programmes and actions.

104. Achievements include reducing the gaps in access to formal education, thereby reducing drop-out rates among women.

105. Progress by the Government of Ecuador with regard to this commitment includes the 2009 declaration by the Ministry of Education and Cultures that Ecuador is a territory free of illiteracy, in accordance with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization requirements. One of the objectives is to cut women's illiteracy. The Transition Committee of the Council for Women and Gender Equality is working with the Ministry of Education to include a gender perspective in its policies.

106. The Organization Act on the Food Sovereignty Regime, published in Official Register Supplement No. 583 on 5 May 2009, includes the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality and, in addition, promotes participation by women in decision-making processes. Article 4 of the Act provides for gender equality in access to the factors of production. Similarly, article 6 facilitates equal access to land ownership for women producers who are heads of families.

To link Government plans with public policies that promote economic, social and environmental rights and that aim to eliminate the employment inequalities between men and women and to promote appropriate management of environmental resources; and to offer financial and non-financial resources that provide decent living conditions for women and promote their autonomy, paying greater attention to rural women.

107. The rights of women with regard to natural resources, biodiversity, sovereignty and social rights are recognized in the Constitution.

To establish a training plan for officials of the judiciary, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the police and other actors in the criminal justice system to raise awareness and provide appropriate training on the approach to family violence and sexual offences committed against women, girls and adolescents and sexually diverse groups in order to give those groups true access to the criminal justice system.

108. To fulfil this voluntary commitment by Ecuador, the themes of gender and violence have been fully analysed in the training of National Police officers, using the materials produced by the Plan for the Eradication of Gender-Based Violence in the framework of the campaign entitled "Wake up Ecuador, machismo is violence".

109. Similarly, in 2008 a curriculum was designed in Ecuador for the Certificate Course in Gender, Justice and Human Rights. In 2009 and 2010, prosecutors, judges and public defence lawyers, first in Quito and later in Guayaquil and Cuenca, will be put through this course.

K. Rights of persons with diverse sexual orientations

To implement a national system guaranteeing action for equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, through the strengthening of institutions for the protection of human rights of women and persons with diverse sexual orientations, as well as the promulgation of norms to combat discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender.

110. Under article 11, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of Ecuador, discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited. To ensure that those rights are protected, the Constitution establishes a number of regulatory, political and jurisdictional guarantees. One of those guarantees is the obligation for all bodies, regardless of their rank, that issue regulations to ensure that they are in line with constitutional precepts.

111. In addition, the jurisdictional steps necessary to enforce rights in the event of their violation are set out. The main jurisdictional guarantees include habeas corpus, action for access to public information, the writ of habeas data (access to personal data), action for the application of legal rules and action for protection in the event of the violation of rights under the Constitution.

112. Progress in this voluntary commitment made by Ecuador is also described in paragraph 7 of Ecuador's progress report on compliance with the Council's recommendations.

L. Rights of migrants

To follow up on programmes and projects under the National Human Development Plan for Migration.

To establish mechanisms intended to avoid criminalization of migration, such as training workshops for officers posted at the country's entry and exit points.

113. Ecuador's progress in this commitment is described under voluntary commitment No. 15, related to human rights training, in the areas of the movement of persons, trafficking in persons and refugees.

To promote and disseminate the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families through printed matter directed to students in areas with high migration rates; a page in the Web portal www.migranteecuatoriano.gov.ec will also be designed.

114. The subject of migration is of primary national interest. Progress, initiatives and challenges with regard to the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants are presented in the second periodic report of Ecuador to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, submitted in September 2009.

115. To meet its commitments to protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, Ecuador is undertaking to apply mechanisms to disseminate those rights among Ecuadorian citizens.

M. Rights of persons with disabilities

To implement fully the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through its dissemination and the execution of broad and effective public policies for the promotion of the rights of this priority group.

To promote access by persons with disabilities to education, employment, health care, communication and physical space in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to achieve equal opportunities and access to goods and services with a gender perspective.

To promote, from the central Government in coordination with local authorities, the adoption of activities and programmes to ensure that persons with disabilities can live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, ensuring their access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communication, without obstacles of any type and making possible a country without barriers in both the public and private spheres.

To introduce flexibility in the regulations of public and private bodies for the purpose of ensuring access of persons with disabilities to training and capacity-building programmes in the various professions and specializations, enabling them to find employment; to that effect, compliance with the Regulations on Hiring of Persons with Disabilities in public competitive and merit examinations will be monitored.

To promote, disseminate and raise awareness in society of the rights of persons with visual disabilities through the mass utilization of the Braille system to guarantee their right to information.

To work for the eradication of illiteracy among persons with visual disabilities in marginalized urban areas through the establishment of specialized literacy centres, with international technical and financial support.

To support the strengthening of associations of persons with visual disabilities.

116. Ecuador became a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in April 2008. This new commitment to protect those rights has strengthened the country's efforts in the field. As a State party, two years after ratification of this international instrument, it is in the process of preparing the initial report which will describe in detail the steps taken to comply with its obligations in accordance with the Convention, in addition to the initiatives undertaken and progress made in the field.

117. Similarly, Ecuador participates actively on the international front in the various forums in which it has made efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. It has also presented and supported initiatives in this area.

N. Promotion of human rights within the National Police

To modify the method of compiling the criminal record of citizens (police record) to follow the principles of presumption of innocence and the right to honour and good reputation.

118. In this regard, in 2010 Ecuador plans to hold meetings of working groups to comply with this requirement.

To establish a Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Unit within the National Police in order to develop a plan of action for policing addressing the process of receiving complaints and enforcement of judicial and extrajudicial actions for the appropriate follow-up.

119. To meet this commitment, Ecuador's Ministry of Government, Police and Worship developed a proposal to amend the regulations governing the National Police. The proposal included the establishment of a Human Rights and Gender Unit, which endeavours to respond to the recommendations made in this regard. In addition, the Human Rights Violations Investigation Unit has been established to improve the response to related complaints.

120. In 2010, to comply with the international recommendations of both the Committee against Torture and those contained in the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Government of Ecuador established a unit to investigate complaints of human rights violations. It reviews proceedings involving National Police and Ministry of Government officers to ensure they are punished by the competent bodies for any human rights violations they might have committed.

121. This special technical unit will enable full reviews of proceedings involving human rights violations or acts of discrimination, ill-treatment, xenophobia, homophobia, racism or any other form of discrimination. Similarly, it will enable

reviews to ensure that proceedings and activities carried out (arrests, deportations or operations) meet minimum human rights standards.

122. This unit will develop and promote structural solutions designed to prevent human rights violations from ever happening again and to give victims the proper reparations.

To reform the procedural and reporting manual of the National Police Directorate for Children and Adolescents, in order to harmonize it with international conventions and domestic laws for the protection of children and adolescents.

123. Through its National Police Directorate for Children and Adolescents, in 2009 Ecuador held ongoing meetings with officials from the Office of the Attorney General and the Children and Adolescents' Courts to harmonize procedures and to accelerate administrative procedures.

124. In March 2010, authorities from the National Police Directorate for Children and Adolescents in Pichincha and legal advisers from the National Police held meetings to revise and improve the Procedural and Reporting Manual. This Manual is current and being fully implemented.

To establish a functional system for registration of complaints of human rights violations that will allow information to be compiled effectively, making appropriate use of international standards or classifications of types of violations, with the aim of preventing or punishing human rights violations committed by members of the National Police.

125. Through its Ministry of Government, Police and Worship, the Government of Ecuador has planned and implemented the establishment, development and operation of a computer system designed to develop protocols for complaints of human rights violations and suitable follow-up and verification mechanisms.

126. This system is being completed and will be brought online in 2010. Among other structural actions, it is intended not only to provide effective information on types and methodologies of human rights violations but also will ensure there are suitable mechanisms for the proposal and implementation of structural solutions to prevent and punish such practices.

O. Promotion of human rights within the armed forces

To conduct activities to disseminate and raise awareness on human rights and international humanitarian law.

127. Beginning in March 2010, the Directorate of Human Rights of the Ministry of Defence started work on a human rights curriculum aimed at the armed forces. That process will be disseminated with the support of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

128. In addition, the "Project to align the Armed Forces of Ecuador with International Humanitarian Law" was designed and approved, under the Inter-agency Cooperation Agreement entered into by the Ministry of Defence, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the National Red Cross Society of

Ecuador. A range of activities have also been carried out to train and raise awareness among members of the armed forces in the areas of human rights and international humanitarian law.

To conduct workshops on prevention and eradication of ill-treatment and torture for members of the armed forces.

129. In June 2009, the Ecumenical Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Defence coordinated six workshops in Ecuador on the prevention and eradication of ill-treatment and torture for members of the armed forces, with the participation of members of the three branches of the armed forces.

To conduct activities including training, mediation and arbitration for the prevention and elimination of family violence.

130. Ecuador has taken steps to comply with this voluntary commitment, establishing a Mediation and Negotiation Centre, through the Ministry of Defence, by a ministerial agreement reached in July 2008.

131. This Mediation and Negotiation Centre, opened in March 2009, is legally recognized as a venue for conflict resolution for members of the armed forces. Drawing on alternative conflict resolution methods, it ensures that the Government of Ecuador contributes to a culture of peace in the military environment.

To advance activities to promote women's rights and gender equality, with emphasis on stable employment, as well as the prevention and elimination of sexual harassment in the workplace.

132. To meet this commitment, Ecuador has taken steps to promote women's rights and gender equality through amendments to the Act and the Regulations pursuant to the Act on Members of the Armed Forces. Suitable rules relating to pregnancy, birth and the post-partum period as related to military functions were included to guarantee stability of employment.

133. In addition, the Transitional Regulation to Guarantee the Principle of Direct and Immediate Application of the Rights of Female Members of the Armed Forces was adopted and enacted.

134. In March 2010, with the support of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, work began on gender-related matters at Ecuador's Ministry of Defence. The goals include gender mainstreaming to include a gender perspective in the armed forces.

To establish a section within the Ministry of Defence for the prevention and control of corruption within the armed forces.

135. The Government of Ecuador, through the competent institutions, has taken steps to meet this commitment.